



By the King.

A Proclamation against the Exportation of
Clothes, vndyed and vndressed contrary to Law.



It was the worke of one of Our Noble Progenitours, King EDVVARD 3. to conuert the Wools of this Kingdom, formerly vnted Raw, into Cloth, thereby to procure vnto Our louing Subiects the profite arising, as wel vpon the Manufacture, as vpon the Materiall, and to set Our owne people on worke for their better sustentation and comfort. And it is likewise Our desire that it should be the worke of Our times to Ordaine and Prouide, That all Broad Clothes may be Died & Dressed within Our Kingdome, before they be exported, for the further good of Our louing Subiects, in whose riches & good estate wee shall alwayes thinke our selues rich & happie. Whereunto wee may adde the great satisfaction and publike good, which other foraine Princes and States, with whom we are in League and Amitie, shall receiue by this meanes in all parts, where Our Cloth is vled and worne; for that the Strangers, and others that heretofore bought them white beyond the Seas, haue vsually practised both to set false Colours vpon Our said Clothes, and also to Tenter them in the length, sometimes sixe, sometimes eight, sometimes ten yards in the Cloth, as it came out of the water, besides the breadth, whereby the wearer is defeated of his measure, and the Cloth made so weake and hollow, as it will neither hold out wet, nor last any time, to the extreame damage of the wearer, and the intolerable discredite of this Noble and Staple commoditie; all which Inconueniences will now cease and be remoued: wee therefore taking these things into Our Princely consideration, and finding likewise that the Kings Our Progenitours did long since in their Iudgement & wisdom discern the good that might come of this worke, though through misinformation they neuer fully effected the same, as may appeare by the good and politike Lawes that haue beene Enacted in that behalfe, after mature Consideration, and deliberate Resolution in this important Case, doe by these Presents straightly and expressly Prohibite and forbidde, constitute and ordaine, That no Broad Cloath of what sort soeuer it bee, made here within this our Kingdome of England, shall be Exported, Vndyed, and Vndrest, after the second day of Nouember next ensuing the date.

hereof : But that all such Broad Cloathes shall here within this Our Kingdome of England, haue their full and due Manufactures before they be exported : And that all and euery the former Lawes and Statutes, which haue bene heretofore made and established in former times by any of Our Noble Predecessours, and are yet in force and strength for the true Dying and Dressing of Cloathes shall bee duely put in their full Execution : And that all Our louing Subjects of what qualitie soeuer, (that after the said second of Nouember next ensuing, will undertake the Exportation of Broad Cloathes, truly Dyed and Drest within this Our Kingdome,) shall be admitted to Ship, and Export the same to any staple Townes beyond the Seas, where heretofore Our Cloathes or Woollen Commodities haue bene transported by the Merchant aduenturer, white, Rough, and Undrest, with as great and ample Priuiledges as euer the said Merchants Aduenturers within this Kingdome, or in Forraigne parts haue, or had, or with any other and further Priuiledges for their comfort, and encouragement, as they shall or can reasonably require : Wee hereby intending to make a Free Trade for all Our louing Subjects that shall undertake the Venting of the aforesaid Cloathes within the Territories where the Merchant Aduenturers haue formerly Traded, being first here duely Dyed and Drest in their full Manufactures.

And we doe further hereby promise in the word of a King, to all Our said louing Subjects, that so shall undertake to export the said Broad Cloathes in their foresaid true Manufactures, that neither the present Charter of the Merchant Aduenturers, nor any other Licences or Dispensations by Non obstantes contrarie to Our Lawes heretofore granted by Us, or any Our Predecessours shall be any manner of prejudice, impeachment, disturbance, or interruption to such as shall, after the time aforesaid, vent the said Cloathes Dyed and Drest, according to this Our Royall Ordinance and Constitution; But are from the said second day of Nouember next declared, to be annihilated and made voyde to all intents and purposes : So that all Our louing Subjects, their sonnes and seruants shall be free to export the said Cloathes fully Drest and Dyed, as aforesaid. Provided neuerthelessse, That all and singular persons which shall shippe or export any such Dyed and Drest Cloathes into the Territories aforesaid, shall first subscribe their names, with such summes of Money, as they will yeerely employ during the space of three yeeres next ensuing, in a Register Booke, which shall be kept by William Cockaine Alderman of Our Citie of London, & William Baineham, one of Our Seruants, or either of them, before the twentieth day of September next ensuing the Date of these presents. And that all others, which refuse or neglect so to doe, shall for euer be excluded from vsing and exercising the Trade of Exportation of Dyed and Drest Cloathes into the places and dominions aforesaid.

Giuen at Our Pallace of Westminster the three and twentieth day of Iuly, in the twelfth yeere of Our Raigne of Great Britaine, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland the seuen and fortieth.

God saue the King.

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